

EXHIBIT A

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION
CORPORATION,

Plaintiff-Applicant,

v.

BERNARD L. MADOFF INVESTMENT
SECURITIES LLC,

Defendant.

In re:

BERNARD L. MADOFF INVESTMENT
SECURITIES LLC,

Debtor.

Adv. Pro. No. 08-01789 (CGM)

SIPA LIQUIDATION

(Substantively Consolidated)

**ORDER APPOINTING A DISCOVERY ARBITRATOR PURSUANT TO
BANKRUPTCY RULE 9019(c) AND GENERAL ORDER M-390**

WHEREAS, this liquidation arises out of the arrest of Bernard L. Madoff (“Madoff”) on December 11, 2008 for criminal violations of federal securities laws, investor advisor fraud, and mail and wire fraud, and the subsequent plea hearing wherein Madoff admitted he operated a Ponzi scheme;

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2008, the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) commenced an action against Madoff and his company, Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities, LLC (“BLMIS”), *Securities Exchange Commission v. Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC, et al.*, No. 08 CV 10791 (LLS);

WHEREAS, on December 15, 2008, the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (“SIPC”) filed an application seeking a decree that the customers of BLMIS are in need of the

protections afforded by the Securities Investors Protection Act (“SIPA”);

WHEREAS, on December 15, 2008, the SEC consented to a combination of its own action with the application of SIPC, and thereafter, the Hon. Louis L. Stanton granted SIPC’s application and entered an order pursuant to SIPA, which: (a) appointed the Trustee for the liquidation of the business of BLMIS; (b) appointed Baker & Hostetler LLP as counsel to Irving H. Picard, the Trustee for the liquidation of BLMIS; and (c) removed the case to bankruptcy court in the Southern District of New York.

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2009, an involuntary bankruptcy petition was filed against Madoff, the Court ordered relief and, on June 9, 2009, the Court substantively consolidated the chapter 7 estate of Madoff with the SIPA liquidation estate;

WHEREAS, the Trustee subsequently commenced adversary proceedings against Defendants seeking to avoid and recover payouts of alleged fictitious profits and other transfers made by BLMIS and/or Madoff to Defendants;

WHEREAS, the Trustee and Defendants in many adversary proceedings are in active discovery;

WHEREAS, in hearings and conferences, this Court has heard and resolved various discovery disputes between the Trustee and Defendants, and it is likely that additional discovery disputes may arise in light of the documents relevant to the liquidation and adversary proceedings;

WHEREAS, in the interest of judicial economy, the Court appoints a Discovery Arbitrator pursuant to Rule 9019(c) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and the General Order M-390 to resolve various discovery disputes in any of the Trustee’s adversary proceedings, whether such dispute is currently pending before the Court or in the future;

WHEREAS, the parties in any given adversary proceeding who consent to use of the Discovery Arbitrator must enter into a stipulated order consenting to submit the dispute to the Discovery Arbitrator and the procedures outlined in this Order, but for the avoidance of doubt, nothing herein shall compel a party to consent to arbitration or prohibit a request for different Discovery Arbitrator;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. In an effort to establish a uniform, efficient and fair framework for dealing with discovery disputes, Frank Maas, Esq., c/o JAMS, Inc., 620 Eighth Avenue, 34th Floor New York, New York 10018, email: fmaas@jamsadr.com, is appointed as Discovery Arbitrator, effective October 4, 2016, to resolve such discovery disputes that may arise, and which have been specifically referred to him by the Court with the consent of the parties to the dispute, including discovery disputes related to electronically stored information, questions of privilege, confidentiality, work product, relevance, scope and burden.

2. The Discovery Arbitrator shall, in the performance of his quasi-judicial duties, be entitled to the immunities and protections to the fullest extent provided by law.

3. The Discovery Arbitrator may not communicate *ex parte* with the parties or third parties without the consent of all parties, except with respect to scheduling.

4. The Discovery Arbitrator shall preserve, as a record of his activities, all written submissions received from the parties, all written submissions sent to the parties and any transcripts of hearings before the Discovery Arbitrator. The Discovery Arbitrator shall file with the Clerk of this Court such records upon the request of any party or the Court. The Discovery Arbitrator shall also file any order, report or recommendation to the Court within 10 days of the issuance thereof.

5. The Discovery Arbitrator's hourly fee shall be 90% of the lesser of (i) the Discovery Arbitrator's standard rate or (ii) \$1,000 per hour (the "Net Fee"). The Discovery Arbitrator shall also be reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses actually incurred in the performance of his duties. If the Discovery Arbitrator finds that he needs the assistance of a support staff employee or lawyer in his office, that expense shall be billed by the Discovery Arbitrator at the ordinary rates for those people, which shall not exceed the Net Rate paid to the Discovery Arbitrator.

6. In any given adversary proceeding, the costs of the Discovery Arbitrator shall be shared equally by (i) the Trustee, on the one hand, and (ii) the Defendants, on the other. The Discovery Arbitrator shall send an invoice with equally apportioned amounts to the Trustee and the Defendants.

7. To the extent the parties enter into a stipulated order as provided by Paragraph 1, any party may refer a discovery dispute to the Discovery Arbitrator by emailing a letter of no more than three (3) pages summarizing the discovery dispute to the Discovery Arbitrator at the email address listed in paragraph 1, *supra*, with notice to any to the relevant parties via email.

8. Within seven (7) days of receiving a party's letter to the Discovery Arbitrator noticing the discovery dispute, the other parties to the discovery dispute shall submit to the Discovery Arbitrator via email a letter response to the initiating party's letter to the Discovery Arbitrator (the "Response"), not to exceed three (3) pages, with notice to the other parties via email. The Discovery Arbitrator shall thereafter establish procedures for the resolution of the dispute.

9. In accordance with Paragraph 15 of the Litigation Protective Order entered on June 6, 2011 [Dkt. 4137] in *Securities Investor Protection Corporation v. Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities, LLC, et al.*, Adv. Pro. No. 08-01789 (BRL), the Discovery Arbitrator may

file under seal with the Clerk of the Court any documents claimed by any party to be

CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL, as defined in Paragraph 2 of the Litigation Protective Order.

10. The rulings of the Discovery Arbitrator shall be binding on all relevant parties. Any party may request an appeal of any ruling of the Discovery Arbitrator by submitting a letter to the Court (and copying the relevant parties and Discovery Arbitrator) setting forth the request and the specific issues to be reviewed within fourteen (14) days from the date such ruling is issued. At the discretion of the Court, the Discovery Arbitrator's rulings will be reviewed as follows: (i) findings of fact will be reviewed *de novo*; (ii) legal conclusions will be reviewed *de novo*; and (iii) rulings on procedural matters will be reviewed for abuse of discretion.

ORDERED, that this Court shall retain jurisdiction with respect to all matters relating to the interpretation or implementation of this Order.